

## One year with One Touch: initial conclusions

Experiences with the first autoprint press series in production

**One year ago, it was a topic that made headlines at the IFRA Expo; meanwhile, its practical implementation has been gradually achieved: the One Touch vision, newspaper printing at the press of a button.**

Until the start of this year's IFRA Expo, manroland engineers had further developed the automation solutions, and the autoprint newspaper printing systems were put into operation by manroland's service department, bringing much new and valuable practical knowledge. The Osnabrücker Zeitung and Freie Presse in Chemnitz rely on APL, manroland's Automatic Plate Loading system. The Mittelbayerische Druckzentrum in Regensburg, the daily Mannheimer Morgen, and the Times of India are scheduled to follow. Demands for cost-effective newspaper production and later editorial deadlines are a reality, especially for smaller editions involving many job changes. The latter pose a benefit to advertising customers, and thus a good acquisition argument for publishing houses. These experiences have been gathered from the first autoprint series systems installed in Chemnitz and Osnabrück, where dailies with a strong regional emphasis are printed. APL has proven itself in the daily operations of these locations. Because of significantly reduced makeready times, customers report that they can now start printing later in the night. The editorial departments value this opportunity for even greater topicality. The print shops also find it more convenient to handle the numerous job changes typically involved in many regional editions, thus enabling them to create a more specific profile for their readers. Together with these production advantages, the print quality presents an additional persuasive benefit: an inline ink density control module such as InlineDensityControl offers consistently high quality throughout production, resulting in less waste, reduced staffing needs and fewer complaints. As supplier and service partner, manroland is satisfied with its start: press availabilities have surpassed customer expectations, as well as manroland's.

### How does autoprint work?

One Touch: the vision of automated newspaper production with the autoprint series signifies production efficiency through the consistent reduction of costs per copy, while taking the entire print shop process chain into account. This ensures a competitive edge on the media market. The proven manroland technology is based on customer needs and requirements arising from changing business models. It focuses on the principle of cost efficiency and provides the best quality while maintaining high flexibility. Moreover, publishing products must be made more attractive for readers and advertising customers, which is accomplished through creativity and groundbreaking technology. On the one hand, the automation approach of the autoprint series is based on the APL plate changing system with robot arm, and the modular, automatic plate transport (APL logistics) from the CTP

manroland AG is the world's second largest printing systems manufacturer and the world's market leader in web offset. manroland employs almost 8,700 people and has annual sales of some Euro 1.7 billion with an export share of 80%. Web fed and sheetfed presses provide solutions for publishing, commercial, and packaging printing.

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Photos can be downloaded from [www.manroland.com](http://www.manroland.com) in the category **Press**.

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system to the printing tower. The newspaper press is controlled by inline systems for ink density control, color and cut-off registers, web tension, and temperature. All functions are integrated in one single workflow and one control console.

### **Fully automatic plate change processes**

APL has proven itself in the field, and now the first customers have made the decision for APL logistics, a central part of the One Touch concept. With APL logistics, manroland is the first printing press manufacturer to have realized and installed workflow-integrated, automated plate logistics. In its most advanced extension phase, APL logistics enables a fully automatic plate change process. APL logistics handles the transport and transfer of printing plates from the CTP system to the plate robots. With APL logistics, the disk storage can be loaded manually by the operator or by a robot in the sound-insulated room or on the plate setter. Movement into the loading position occurs fully automatically via a rail transport system. APL logistics equally focuses on a reduction in makeready time, ergonomics and a stress-free workflow for the printer. The entire makeready process is integrated into the printnet workflow concept. This is modern data handling and plate logistics. With automated solutions, the systems are well equipped for retrofits, which may provide useful possibilities with respect to future legislation, for example, new work load values for printers.

### **The business model of the future?**

Even the most cutting-edge technology, whether it is autoprime printing systems or heatset-coldset combinations, does not yet comprise a business model. The autoprime series technology does, however, represent a major component and the foundation and starting point for complex business models that are as individual as the publishing and printing companies using them. Where has a publishing company established its focus? On topicality? On press utilization through contract printing? What percentage does the newspaper occupy in the entire media-based publishing portfolio? manroland's role is to advise customers on their requirements, to accompany processes, and to provide customized technological solutions. The customer requires cost reductions and increased efficiency. The PRINTVALUE range stands for added value: maintenance, training, and spare part supply by printservices; coordinated, process-compliant system components by printcom; networking by printnet; and consulting by printadvice.

### **Captions:**

The vision: printing at the push of a button, with only one person at a single control console.

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APL logistics: an international first in workflow-integrated, automatic plate logistics from the CTP system to the plate changer. | © manroland.

The manroland APL system at the COLORMAN in Osnabrück reduces the time for a plate change to three minutes. | © manroland.